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Memo

Brig Gen James L. Cole, Jr., AF/SE,
for SAF/AAZ

Subj: GAO Review on Records
Management Procedures with
Weather Balloons, Unidentified
Aircraft, and Similar Crash
Incidents . . .

March 14, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

14 MAR 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAZ
ATTENTION: LT COL BUTLER

FROM: AF/SE

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather Balloons,
Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO Code 701034) -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

In response to your memorandum dated 1 Mar 94, same subject, Air Force Safety has identified 2 directives concerning the investigating and reporting of air vehicle crashes. One is within our purview, while the other is managed by the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

AFR 127-4, *Investigating and Reporting US Air Force Mishaps* (attached), provides guidance for Air Force safety investigations, to include "air vehicle mishaps." The mishap report is used for mishap prevention purposes only and is not normally released outside Air Force channels. It does not cover the investigation of air vehicle crashes belonging to other branches of government or civilian crashes.

AFR 110-14, *Investigations of Aircraft, Missile, and Nuclear and Space Accidents*, provides guidance for Accident Investigation Boards, which are convened primarily to obtain and preserve available evidence for claims, litigation, disciplinary and administrative actions, and for all other purposes. The accident report is normally releasable to the public.

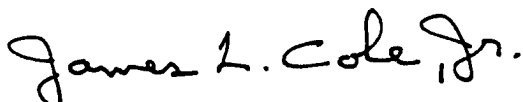
Normally, the safety investigation is done first, after which the wreckage/debris retention and disposition becomes the responsibility of the Accident Investigation Board. AFR 110-14, paragraph 10, Disposition of Wreckage and Other Evidentiary Materials, states "HQ USAF/JACC [now AFLSA/JACT] manages the retention of aircraft wreckage for anticipated litigation or in cases where there is a high degree of publicity. The Air Force is not under any general requirement to retain wreckage for long periods of time, but in some cases, it is advantageous to do while in others the wreckage can be disposed of quickly."

The Air Force Safety Agency searched the microfilm records (classified and unclassified) for air vehicle mishaps for the period 20 June through 31 July 1947. The only mishaps reported in New Mexico during that periods are as follows:

AIRCRAFT	DATE	TIME*	LOCATION
A-26C	24 June 1947	0809	7 miles northwest of Hobbs NM
P-51N	10 July 1947	1252	7 miles northwest of Hobbs NM
C-82A	12 July 1947	1206	7 miles southeast of Albuquerque NM
P-80A	18 July 1947	1200	Carrizozo NM
PQ-14B	28 July 1947	0935	15 miles southwest of Alamogordo NM

* all times are Mountain Standard Time

We have no information regarding mishaps of air vehicles belonging to civilian or other government agencies. Please note that mishaps involving unmanned air vehicles (which during the 1940s included remotely piloted aircraft, low-speed "cruise missiles" like the V-1, and most balloons) are considered "ground mishaps." Reports on such occurrences are not retained for an extended period; AFR 4-20, vol II, Table 127-2, rule 4 directs the Air Force Safety Agency to destroy them after 5 years.



JAMES L. COLE, JR., Brig Gen, USAF
Chief of Safety

Attachment:

AFR 127-4 w/d

cc:

AFLSA/JACT (atch w/d)

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Memo

Col Michael W. Schoenfeld,
SAF/AQL, for SAF/AA

Subj: GAO Review on Records
Management Procedures Dealing
with Weather Balloons, Unknown
Aircraft, and Similar Crash
Incidents . . .

March 22, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

22 MAR 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AA

FROM: SAF/AQL

**SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO
Code 701034) (Your memorandum, 1 Mar 1994)
-- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

SAF/AQL is not the OPR for: 1) directives concerning records retention and disposition or for 2) directives concerning reporting air vehicle crashes, investigations, and wreckage/debris retention and disposition. Additionally, we do not possess any records related to air vehicle impacts or crashes in New Mexico.

MICHAEL W. SCHOENFELD, COL, USAF
Director, Electronic & Special Programs
Assistant Secretary
of the Air Force (Acquisition)

Memo

Col Steve O. Ouzts, AF/XOWP, for
SAF/AAZ

Subj: GAO Review on Records
Management Procedures Dealing
with Weather Balloons, Unknown
Aircraft, and Similar Crash
Incidents . . .

March 9, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



09 Mar 94

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAZ
ATTENTION: Lt Col Bulter

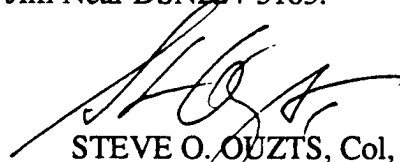
FROM: HQ USAF/XOWP
1490 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1490

SUBJECT: GAO Review on Records Management Procedures Dealing with Weather
Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents (GAO Code
701034)- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Reference: 1 Mar 94 SAF Memorandum, Subj, same as above

There is no requirement for weather personnel to record weather balloon landings.
Only meteorological data are retained.

We did not find any records in the Air Force weather archives of a weather balloon
crash near Roswell, New Mexico from 20 June to 31 July 1947. If you have any
questions, my point of contact is Lt Col Jim Near DSN224-5163.


STEVE O. OUZTS, Col, USAF
Chief, Policy Division
Directorate of Weather
DCS, Plans and Operations

Memo

Grace T. Rowe, SAF/AAIQ, for
SAF/AAI, SAF/AAZ

Subj: GAO Review of Records
Management Procedures Dealing
with Weather Balloons, Unknown
Aircraft, and Similar Crash
Incidents . . .

March 10, 1994



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1000



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 March 1994

SAF/AAIQ
1610 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1610

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AAI

SAF/AAZ
IN TURN

Passive 14 Mar 94
15 Mar 94

SUBJECT: GAO Review of Records Management Procedures Dealing with
Weather Balloons, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash
Incidents (GAO Code 701034) - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Reference your memorandum, 1 March 1994, request items:

- (a) Identify pertinent directives concerning records retention
and disposition.

The Air Force current regulation is AFR 4-20, Volume 2, Disposition of Air Force Records, Records Disposition Schedule, dated 1 May 1992.

Earlier schedules were:

AFR 12-50 volume II, Disposition of Air Force Records, Records Disposition Standards, 30 October 1987; 31 January 1986; 14 May 1984.

AFM 12-50 Volume II, Disposition of Air Force Documentation; 1 October 1969.

AFM 181-5, Records Management, Evaluation and Disposition of Records, 1 December 1966; 1 July 1963; and 10 November 1958.

AFM 181-5, Records Management, Disposition of Records, 1 July 1956; and 1 August 1954.

AFM 181-5, Administration of Records, 1950.

- (b) Identify pertinent directives concerning reporting Air vehicle crashes, investigations, and wreckage/debris retention and disposition.

AFR 110-14, Investigations of Aircraft, Missile, and Nuclear and Space Accidents (AF/JACC).

AFP 127-1 Volume 1, US Air Force Guide to Mishap Investigation (AFSA/SEP)

AFP 127, Volume 3, Safety Investigation Workbook (AFSA/SEP)

AFR 127-4, Investigating and Reporting US Air Force Mishaps (AFSA/SEP)

AFR 127-11, Participation in a Military Civil Aircraft Accident Safety Investigation (AFSA/SEP)

(c) Identify any records (unclassified or classified) related to air vehicle (aircraft, lighter-than-aircraft, rocket/missile, or other) impacts or crashes in New Mexico from 20 June to 31 July 1947; identify record groups and/or other indexes associated with these records for further review.

We asked the National Personnel Records Center to see if they have any files for Roswell Air Force Base for the 1947 time frame in their holdings. They noted that the histories for the 509th Bomb Group and Wing for Roswell Army Air Base for period of November-December 1947 was transferred to Air University in 1953. The regular 1947 records have been destroyed. They do have a packet of Top Secret for 509th Bomb Wing, Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, NM for 1949-1950. They said we would need to look through this for any records.

(d) provide copies of pertinent directives (including any changes of policies on retention and disposition) and records (i.e., item c above) to SAF/AAZ, 1720 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1720.

We are attaching appropriate extract from our disposition schedule since 1950. This is our earliest schedule.

Grace T. Rowe
GRACE T. ROWE
Chief, Records Management Branch
Directorate of Information Management

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Extracts from AF *W/D*
Records Schedules